

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 DAMASCUS 4368

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OVIP SY IS PLO
SUBJ: KHADDAM JULY 9 MEETING WITH CODEL HAMILTON

1. NOT CLEARED WITH CODEL AND SUBJECT TO THEIR COMMENTS.
CAIRO REQUESTED FURNISH COPY TO CODEL.

2. SUMMARY: IN ATYPICALLY RESTRAINED PRESENTATION, FONMIN KHADDAM STRESSED SYRIA'S DESIRE, AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEED FOR PEACE. HE LISTED COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, AND END OF BELLIGERENCY AS CRITICAL FACTORS IN SEARCH FOR PEACE. REPEATEDLY, HE SAID THAT SYRIA WAS KEEPING DOOR OPEN TO PEACE IN SPITE OF ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE. BUT KHADDAM WARNED THAT CONTINUED ISRAELI EXTREMISM WOULD LEAD TO ARAB EXTREMISM. HE SAID THAT SYRIA WOULD NOT PAY PRICE OF RECOGNIZING ISRAEL TO OBTAIN WITHDRAWAL. DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION, ACCORDING TO KHADDAM, IS IRRELEVANT TO SECURITY. SECURITY WILL BE ACHIEVED BY AGREEMENT SIGNED IN SECURITY COUNCIL UNDER INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES AND BY ELIMINATING INJUSTICE IN REGION. KHADDAM SAID THAT NO ARAB CAN SPEAK FOR PALESTINIANS EXCEPT PLO. HE WAS UNYIELDING ON POSITIONS HE OUTLINED. KHADDAM PRAISED PRESIDENT CARTER'S EFFORTS AND CONVEYED GREETINGS TO HIM. END SUMMARY.

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3. IN RESTRAINED TWO HOUR PRESENTATION EVENING OF JULY 9, FONMIN KHADDAM TOLD CONGRESSMEN HAMILTON, OBEY, ROSENTHAL AND MIKVA THAT SYRIA, LIKE REST OF WORLD, IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST SINCE IT RECOGNIZES DEEP IMPACT EVENTS IN THIS AREA HAVE ON WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY AND ON WORLD ECONOMY. IN ADDITION, SYRIA

WANTS TO ATTAIN A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE FOR ITS OWN REASONS. SYRIA IS INTERESTED IN PEACE BECAUSE IT WANTS REAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. THIS IS REASON SYRIA IS MAKING EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION. BUT WHEN SYRIA TALKS OF PEACE IT MEANS A PEACE WHICH IS JUST AND RIGHT, FOR ANYTHING ELSE WOULD BE CAPITULATION. AS WE KNOW FROM HISTORY, WHAT APPEARS TO BE PEACE NEED NOT CONTINUE, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT IS BASED ON INJUSTICE. THERE ARE THREE ELEMENTS WHICH ARE NECESSARY FOR THE REALIZATION OF PEACE: FIRST, ISRAEL MUST WITHDRAW FROM ALL THE ARAB TERRITORIES. SECOND, ISRAEL MUST RECOGNIZE THE NATURAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AS SET DOWN IN RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS. THIRD, THERE MUST BE AN END TO THE STATE OF BELLIGERENCY ALONG WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO ABANDON ANY RECOURSE TO FIGHTING. THESE ARE IDEAS WHICH IN THE PAST WERE REJECTED BY ARAB SIDE. BUT THERE HAS BEEN DEVELOPMENT IN ARAB POSITION. ISRAEL REFUSES PEACE USING FALSE ARGUMENTS. THIS IS NEITHER REASON FOR ARABS TO FOREGO THEIR TERRITORY NOR ABANDON THE TALKS. ISRAEL CANNOT OBTAIN BOTH PEACE AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

9. KHADDAM SAID HE HEARD STATEMENT OF SENATOR DOLE INDICATING THAT WEST BANK WAS NOT OCCUPIED BUT LIBERATED BY ISRAEL. SENATOR DOLE SHOULD KNOW THAT WITH SUCH STATEMENTS HE IS WORKING AGAINST US INTEREST AND SHOWING HIMSELF TO BE ANTI-ARAB. HE WAS TREATING ARABS LIKE RED INDIANS. IF THIS KIND
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OF TALK CONTINUES IT WILL SERVE NEITHER US INTERESTS NOR PEACE BUT WILL ENCOURAGE ISRAEL TO ABANDON THE PATH TOWARD PEACE AND WILL UNDERMINE PEACE EFFORTS. DOES DOLE IMAGINE THAT ISRAEL CAN STAY IN REGION AS AN AGGRESSOR? IF SO HE IGNORES DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND HISTORY OF FRENCH IN ALGERIA, OR US IN VIETNAM, OR ANGOLA IN MOZAMBIQUE. THIS IS IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR AND CHEAP BLACKMAIL MEANT TO DERIVE ELECTORAL BENEFIT FROM ZIONISTS IN US. KHADDAM NOTED THAT THE ARABS HAD SHOWN CONSIDERABLE MODERATION. ALL OF THE OPTIMISM AT THE PRESENT TIME IS DUE TO ARAB MODERATION. BUT ISRAEL IS NOT MOVING IN STEP IN THIS SAME DIRECTION OF PEACE.

5. KHADDAM POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS EXERTED CONSIDRABLE EFFORT AND HAS LEFT A POSITIVE IMPRESSION ABOUT HIS DESIRE TO WORK TOWARD A JUST AND FAIR PEACE. HIS GOOD INITIATIVE HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE ARAB SIDE. AND THE ARABS WILL DO ALL THAT THEY CAN TOHELP HIM IN HIS HOPE TO OBTAIN A SETTLEMENT. THE ARAB SIDE IS SAYING YES, BUT IF ISRAEL DOES NOT CHANGE ITS POSITION THEN THERE WILL BE NO HOPE. ARABS HAVE OPENED ALL DOORS

FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT. BUT PEACE CANNOT BE MADE BY ONE
SIDE ALONE. EVEN SO, ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE DOES NOT MAKE ARAB
SIDE SO DESPERATE THAT IT HAS STOPPED EXERTING ALL ITS EFFORTS
TO OBTAIN PEACE. THIS IS NOT AN ARAB TACTICAL ENDEAVOR.
IT IS AN OVERALL EFFORT.

6. AT PRESENT, KHADDAM SAID, THERE ARE MODERATE GOVERNMENTS
AMONG ARABS, BUT IF PRESENT ISRAELI EXTREMISM CONTINUES IT
WILL LEAD TO ONE OF TWO RESULTS: MODERATE GOVERNMENTS WILL
REVERT TO EXTREMISM OR ELSE EXTREMISM WILL PREVAIL
AMONG ARAB PEOPLE. IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO TALK OF PEACE
IF THE CONTINUED EXTREMISM OF ISRAEL IS SUPPORTED BY THOSE
INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY THEIR INTERNATIONAL
RESPONSIBILITIES. KHADDAM SAID HE WONDERED IF US HAS
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ANY INTEREST IN REIGNITING EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN
THE REGION OR IF BY ENCOURAGING ISRAEL ONE IS WORKING FOR
INTERESTS OF US OR AGAINST THEM.

7. HAMILTON ASKED HOW FAR SYRIA WOULD BE WILLING TO GO IN
ESTABLISHING REAL PEACE IN RETURN FOR OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.
KHADDAM SAID THAT BEFORE ANSWERING THAT QUESTION HE WOULD
LIKE TO POSE ONE. SUPPOSE ARABS WERE ABLE TO REACH
TEL AVIV; WHAT WOULD ISRAEL PAY FOR ARAB WITHDRAWAL? IF
AMERICANS IMAGINE THAT THE ARABS COULD NOT REACH TEL AVIV
THEN US NEED ONLY ENCOURAGE ISRAEL TO CONTINUE ITS PRESENT
ATTITUDE AND THEY WILL SEE THAT ARABS WILL REACH TEL AVIV.
IT IS A SIMPLE MATTER. ISRAEL GRADUATES 500-1000 ENGINEERS
EVERY YEAR WHILE THE ARABS GRADUATE TENS OF THOUSANDS.
ISRAELI NATIONAL INCOME IS GROWING AT ONLY 1 PERCENT PER YEAR,
EVEN WITH AMERICAN AID, WHILE ARAB INCREASE IS SUBSTANTIALLY
HIGHER.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 4 DAMASCUS 4368

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8. HAMILTON DECLINED TO ANSWER ON ISRAEL'S BEHALF AND REPEATED HIS QUESTION. KHADDAM SAID THAT SYRIA WOULD NOT PAY PRICE FOR PEACE SINCE VICTIM OF AGGRESSION SHOULD NOT PAY A PRICE TO THE AGGRESSOR. SO ALTHOUGH SYRIA WANTS PEACE IT IS NOT GOING TO ENGAGE IN BARTER. IT WILL NOT EXCHANGE ONE INCH OF LAND EVEN IF WAR CONTINUES FOR 100 YEARS. RESOLUTION 242 CLEARLY INCLUDES TWO CONDITIONS: FIRST IS ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND SECOND IS TO PUT AN END TO STATE OF BELLIGERENCY. RESOLUTION 242 IS DEFICIENT IN THAT IT DOES NOT COVER BASIC PROBLEM OF THE PALESTINIANS. THUS, SYRIA SEES WITHDRAWAL, SOLVING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, AND ENDING BELLIGERENCY AS THE ELEMENTS WHICH MUST BE REALIZED.

9. AS FOR PROBLEM OF RECOGNITION, KHADDAM SAID RESOLUTION 242 DOES NOT OBLIGE ONE PARTY TO RECOGNIZE THE OTHER. US IS AT PEACE WITH VIETNAM AND YET VETOS ITS UN MEMBERSHIP WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY 125 NATIONS. AND NO ONE CAN OBLIGE US TO CHANGE ITS POLICY. CHINA REPRESENTS A THIRD OF WORLD'S PEOPLE BUT US DOES NOT RECOGNIZE IT. RECOGNITION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NORMAL RELATIONS ARE SOVEREIGN DECISIONS OF ANY STATE. WHEN ISRAEL RAISES THIS, IT DOES SO BECAUSE IT DOES NOT WANT PEACE. WITH AN END OF BELLIGERENCY ISRAEL WILL BE PRECLUDED FROM GOING TO US AND ASKING FOR HELP. KHADDAM
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HUMOROUSLY ADDED THAT THE ARABS WERE WILLING TO GO TO EXTREMES IN ORDER TO SAVE THE US SOME MONEY.

10. OBEY SAID THAT AFTER HIS VISIT TWO YEARS AGO HE HAD TOLD HIS CONSTITUENTS THAT IN CONTEXT OF TRUE PEACE ISRAEL SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND RECOGNIZE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. PROBLEM IS THAT A MAJORITY OF THOSE CONSTITUENTS SAY THAT SYRIA WILL ONLY END THE STATE OF BELLIGERENCY AND AS LONG AS THIS IS SO ISRAEL HAS NO REAL BASIS TO FEEL SECURE. HE ASKED HOW HE COULD ANSWER HIS CONSTITUENTS. KHADDAM RHETORICALLY ASKED IF THE DELEGATION, WHEN IT HAD MET WITH ISRAELI LEADERS, UNDERSTOOD THAT ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO WITHDRAW FROM ALL THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND RECOGNIZE THE NATURAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS. HE SAID OBEY COULD TELL HIS CONSTITUENTS THAT ISRAEL REFUSES TO WITHDRAW AND IGNORES PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. PRESIDENT CARTER IS AN

ADVOCATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT WHERE ARE HUMAN RIGHTS
WHEN MILLIONS SUFFER UNDER HORRIBLE CONDITIONS IN
REFUGEE CAMPS. KHADDAM ASKED WHY AMERICANS TEND TO SEE
ONLY ONE SIDE OF COIN.

11. KHADDAM CONTINUED THAT WHEN ISRAEL RAISES ISSUE OF
SECURITY IT IS ONLY A PRETEXT FOR NOT MOVING TOWARD PEACE
SINCE AN AGREEMENT WOULD END THE STATE OF BELLIGERENCY. AN
AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED IN SECURITY COUNCIL BY ALL
PARTIES TO REFRAIN FROM WAR UNDER INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES.
THUS, SUBJECT OF KIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION HAS NOTHING TO
DO WITH SECURITY. THE ARABS ARE THE ONES WHO NEED TO BE RE-
ASSURED. SINCE 1917 AND BALFOUR DECLARATION THE ARABS HAVE
BEEN SUBJECTED TO AGGRESSION. COMPARE MAP OF 1948 AND TODAY
AND YOU CAN SEE THAT ISRAEL HAS EXPANDED TENFOLD. ARABS
NEED GUARANTEES. ALL THE WARS IN EUROPE WERE FOUGHT
BETWEEN COUNTRIES WHO RECOGNIZED EACH OTHER. WAY TO PREVENT
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WAR IS TO REFRAIN FROM AGGRESSION AND MOVE TOWARD PEACE.
BUT PRIMIN BEGIN AT WORLD ZIONIST CONFERENCE ADDRESSED
PRESIDENT SADAT SAYING THAT IF SADAT DEMANDED ISRAEL'S WITH-
DRAWAL HE MAY AS WELL NOT GO TO GENEVA.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 4 DAMASCUS 4368

EXDIS

12. MIKVA ASKED IF IT WAS NOT JUST AS NECESSARY TO CONSIDER
SOVEREIGN CONCERNS OF ISRAEL AS THOSE OF ARABS. KHADDAM

REPLIED THAT HE WOULD AGREE WITH MIKVA ONLY IF BEGIN AND ARAFAT WOULD ESTABLISH A NONSECTARIAN STATE WITH MOSLEMS, CHRISTIANS AND JEWS LIVING TOGETHER. WHO HAS MORE RIGHT IN PALESTINE: THE PALESTINIANS WHO LIVE IN SYRIA, LEBANON AND JORDAN OR SOVIET JEW? WHAT RIGHT DOES A JEW HAVE TO COME TO PALESTINE WHEN PALESTINIANS ARE DYING IN REFUGEE CAMPS? LET BEGIN ALLOW PALESTINIANS INTO PALESTINE WITH NO DISTINCTION FROM JEWS. EVEN SYRIAN JEWS HAVE NOT REMAINED IN PALESTINE. 2500 JEWS DEPARTED FOR NEWYORK BECAUSE OF RACIAL PREJUDICE IN ISRAEL.

13. KHADDAM TOLD A STORY ABOUT ABDULLAH AL-KHANI (ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER) IN A TAXI IN NEW YORK. KHANI TOLD JEWISH DRIVER HE WAS A SYRIAN BUSINESSMAN. KHANI SUGGESTED THAT IF JEWS AND ARABS GOT TOGETHER THEY COULD PREVAIL IN WORLD, BUT FIRST OF ALL THEY WOULD HAVE TO CONTROL THE U.S. THE DRIVER REPLIED THAT JEWS ALREADY CONTROLLED THE U.S. KHADDAM EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS WHY PRESIDENT NIXON HELPED ISRAEL IN OCTOBER WAR BY INUNDATING IT WITH WEAPONS. ARAB TERRITORY IS OCCUPIED JUST AS THE U.S. IS OCCUPIED. SO THE ARABS AND THE U.S. SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO LIBERATE THEMSELVES.

14. HAMILTON ASKED WHO CAN SPEAK FOR THE PALESTINIANS IN
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GENEVA. WOULD SYRIA ACCEPT PALESTINIANS IN A JORDANIAN OR ARAB DELEGATION? KHADDAM REPLIED THAT PALESTINIANS ARE A PEOPLE WITH THEIR OWN IDENTITY. HOW CAN JORDAN OR SYRIA REPRESENT THEM? THEY ARE AT THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM SO HOW CAN IT BE RESOLVED IN THEIR ABSENCE? ANY AGREEMENT MADE INDEPENDENTLY OF PALESTINIANS WOULD BE UNSTABLE. PLO HAS OBSERVER STATUS AT THE UN AND IS RECOGNIZED BY MORE COUNTRIES THAN RECOGNIZED ISRAEL WHEN IT WAS FOUNDED. WHY PUT ON BLINDERS? THE PALESTINIANS MUST PARTICIPATE AND MUST BEAR THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IN PROCESS OF PEACE. COULD SYRIA DICTATE THAT NAHUM GOLDMAN, PRESIDNET OF THE JEWISH CONGRESS, MUST GO TO GENEVA CONFERENCE ON BEHALF OF ISRAEL? THIS WOULD NOT BE PRACTICAL. ISRAEL MUST GO BECAUSE IT IS A PARTY TO DISPUTE JUST AS ARE PALESTINIANS. ISRAELIS ARE ARGUING THAT THE PLO DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THEM AND SO THEY REFUSE TO GO TO GENEVA WITH PLO. THIS IS NOT A SERIOUS POSITION. EGYPT, SYRIA AND JORDAN DO NOT RECOGNIZE ISRAEL BUT ISRAEL IS WILLING TO GO TO GENEVA WITH THEM. THE ISRAELIS SAY THE PLO WANTS TO DESTROY THEM AND THIS IS A REASON NOT TO ATTEND GENEVA TOGETHER. YET ISRAEL RAISED THE MOTTO OF A JEWISH STATE FROM THE NILE TO THE EUPHRATES ELIMINATING FIVE ARAB COUNTRIES, DESPITE THE FACT IT WANTS TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THESE COUNTRIES.

15. KHADDAM SAID THAT IF THERE WAS SERIOUS DESIRE TO MOVE TOWARD PEACE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION WOULD NOT MATTER. BUT AS LONG AS ISRAEL WANTS TO CREAT

OBSTACLES, QUESTION DOES HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACT. IMAGINE IF ISRAEL REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT, SYRIA, AND JORDAN. PALESTINIANS WOULD SAY THAT THE ARABS HAD FORSAKEN THEM AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES WOULD FORM A FRONT AGAINST THE SIGNED AGREEMENT. A SERIES OF GRAVE PROBLEMS WOULD ARISE TO FRUSTRATE AND WREAK THE AGREEMENT AND AREA WOULD RETURN TO A CONDITION MUCH WORSE THAN PRESENT ONE. SYRIA DOES NOT WANT TO CLOSE ANY AVENUE
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WHERE THERE IS THE SLIGHTEST HOPE FOR PEACE, BUT IN THE SYRIAN VIEW A STATESMAN MUST NOT ONLY SEE THE FACTS BUT ALSO FORESEE FUTURE CONSEQUENCES. KHADDAM ADDED THAT AMERICAN MENTALITY WAS CHARACTERIZED AS SCIENTIFIC, ADVANCED AND PROGRESSIVE. IT IS A MENTALITY WHICH IS CAPABLE OF SEEING THE EFFECTS OF AN ACTION. HE ASKED THE DELEGATION IF THIS WAS NOT SO.

16. HAMILTON SAID HE HAD NO DIFFERENCE WITH THE MINISTER'S VIEW THAT THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE REPRESENTED AT GENEVA. HOWEVER, THERE IS A PRACTICAL PROBLEM. ISRAELIS SAY THEY WILL NOT DEAL WITH THE PLO. IS THERE ANY WAY TO GET AROUND THAT PROBLEM AND GET GENEVA UNDER WAY? IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THE PALESTINIANS TO BE REPRESENTED AT GENEVA OTHER THAN BY THE PLO? KHADDAM SAID HE WANTED TO ANSWER FRANKLY. THERE IS NO WAY OTHER THAN BY THE PLO BEING REPRESENTED AT GENEVA. IF ANY OTHER ARAB SAYS HE CAN REPRESENT THE PALESTINIANS HE IS NOT BEING CANDID IN WHAT HE IS SAYING AND HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DELIVER ON HIS PROMISE.

17. KHADDAM POINTED OUT THAT THE HELP SYRIA HAS EXTENDED TO PALESTINIANS HAS NOT BEEN EQUALED BY ANY OTHER ARAB. DESPITE THIS, WHEN THE EVENTS OCCURRED IN LEBANON, PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS WAGED ATTACKS AGAINST SYRIA. PALESTINIANS LIVE UNDER DIFFICULT CONDITIONS AND HAVE DEVELOPED A COMPLEX. THEY FEEL THEY HAVE A UNIQUE IDENTITY AND REACT TO ANY ACTION AGAINST THIS IDENTITY. NOR ARE THE PALESTINIANS ALONE, FOR MOST OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES STAND AT THEIR SIDE. THUS IF ISRAEL DOES NOT DEAL WITH THE PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION, THAT ORGANIZATION WILL CONTINUE TO GENERATE SLOGANS AND ACTIONS AND NO ONE CAN PREVENT THEM. NO ARAB STATE CAN CLAIM IT SPEAKS FOR THIS ORGANIZATION. IF BEGIN WANTS PEACE HE MUST NEGOTIATE WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THIS PEOPLE JUST AS FRANCE DEALT WITH THE ALGERIAN LIBERATION FRONT AND THE U.S. DEALT WITH THE VIETNAM LIBERATION FRONT. KHADDAM CONCLUDED THAT WHEN SYRIA SAYS IT WANTS TO GO TO GENEVA IT IS NOT BECAUSE
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OF ANY LOVE IT HAS FOR PRIMIN BEGIN BUT BECAUSE IT WANTS PEACE
AND SOMUST NEGOTIATE WITH ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 4 DAMASCUS 4368

EXDIS

18. OBEY ASKED ON BEHALF OF HIS CONSTITUENTS IF THERE WAS
GREATER PROSPECT FOR PEACE THAN THERE WAS A YEAR AND A HALF
AGO OR WAS AMERICA WASTING ITS TIME IN URGING THE PARTIES TO
SEEK PEACE. KHADDAM REPLIED, CERTAINLY NOT. AMERICA'S
EFFORTS ARE A GREAT WORK AND ARE HIGHLY APPRECIATED. WHETHER
WE AGREE IN OUR POINTS OF VIEW OR NOT, THE POSSIBILITY OF
PEACE IS VERY IMPORTANT. WHOEVER WORKS TOWARD THAT END SERVES
THE WHOLE WORLD. KHADDAM SAID THAT OBEY COULD TELL PEOPLE
IN U.S. THAT THE ARABS IN FACT WANT PEACE AND ARE NOT TRYING
TO CLOSE ANY DOOR LEADING TO PEACE. PROBLEM DOES NOT LIE IN
THE ARAB POSITION BUT IN ISRAEL'S, A FACT THAT WAS MADE CLEAR
IN STATEMENTS OF PRIMIN BEGIN IN LIKUD PARTY ELECTORAL PROGRAM.

19. KHADDAM CLOSED BY SAYING THAT THE ARABS CANNOT CEDE
LAND OR DIGNITY AND BY RECALLING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
CARTER WHICH HAD LEFT AN ENCOURAGING IMPRESSION. KHADDAM
ASKED THE DELEGATION TO CONVEY HIS RESPECTS AND GREETINGS
TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

20. HAMILTON ASSURED KHADDAM THAT THERE IS GREAT DESIRE IN
U.S. CONGRESS AND AMONG AMERICAN PEOPLE TO HELP IN DEVELOP-
MENT OF SYRIA AND TO HELP THE PALESTINIANS, BUT AMERICANS
WANT TO DO THIS IN CONTEXT OF A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. U.S.
IS NOT ABLE TO IMPOSE OR ENFORCE A SETTLEMENT. ALL U.S. CAN
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DO IS TRY TO FACILITATE NEGOTIATIONS BY PARTIES. THIS IS
WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS TRYING TO DO AND HE HAS THE SUPPORT
OF CONGRESS IN THAT EFFORT. HAMILTON THANKED KHADDAM FOR
HIS CANDOR AND NOTED HE HAD A WELL DESERVED REPUTATION AS AN
ARTICULATE ADVOCATE OF THE ARAB VIEW.
MURPHY

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